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Mt. Vernon High School's High Tech Academy Partnership with Hancock Memorial Hospital



The students enrolled in Mt. Vernon High School's High Tech Academy, Computers in Design and Production Systems class are getting some real-world experience applying the skills they've developed in computer modeling and animation. The class has partnered with Hancock Memorial Hospital and Health Services in Greenfield to produce a computer model of the hospital showing its new east expansion. Using a combination of blueprints and aerial photographs, the students were able to accurately produce computer models of the hospital and much of its interior equipment and furniture. Once the students are finished with the project, community members will be able to take a virtual tour of the hospital even though the actual construction is in the very early stages.

Because the project is an addition to an existing structure, the students are taking live video and combining it with computer animation to show how the new wing will tie into the existing hospital. To allow the students to accomplish this modern virtual reality process, the hospital donated a commercial quality digital video camera for the students' use. The project will be completed in December.

The virtual fly-by and walk-through of the hospital will be viewed on the academy's Vision Dome. The Vision Dome is a 10-foot diameter hemispheric screen that gives viewers the feeling of being immersed in the virtual environment. Mt. Vernon's High Tech Academy is one of only a few locations in the world using this immersive virtual reality technology.